

SECRET

CANISE

MAY 12 1950
ROR-1

AIR

Chief of Station, Vienna, Austria

7 July 1949

Chief, Foreign Branch M

SS Sturmbannfuhrer Dr. Wilhelm RÖTTL

REFERENCE:

MAVA-2160, WCHA-767

1. Karlsruhe has advised us that the Berlin Telegraf reported on 11 June under a Vienna date line that Subject was among a group of Nazis arrested by the Austrian Police when returning from a conference with leaders of the Oesterreichische Volkspartei in Gmunden.

2. Inasmuch as Subject constitutes a potential security threat to one of our German sources, we should appreciate your keeping Karlsruhe and ourselves informed about his activities.

3. We are passing on for your information the following remarks which have been received from one of our case officers who is well-qualified to appraise Subject:

"If he is slated for a political role in Austria -- and from my intimate knowledge of the man, I wouldn't put it past him -- such development would have to be viewed with gravest concern.....RÖTTL, as you know, is a born intriguer and a dyed in the wool Austrian Nazi with a veneer of "Wienerische Grazieität. That shouldn't fool anybody. By virtue of his superior intelligence and his knack for conspiratorial work (he once told me that he would engage in intelligence work until his dying day) he is bound to attract desperados of the type that surrounded Kaltenbrunner. Their political program can be summed up as the re-establishment of Austrian ascendancy in the Balkans with Vienna the capital. Yet, I wouldn't rule out that Dr. RÖTTL, on purely opportunistic grounds, might decide to play ball with the Russians. All this may be conjectural, but the above mentioned report (i.e. the report from the Telegraf) if true, certainly flashes the danger signal.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2005

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

- 2 -

"For the record I should like to mention that Dr. HOTTLE has delivered a sufficient number of Nazi war criminals to the gallows, unbeknownst to his former associates, to afford us a strong hold over him. Should you decide that he had better be removed from the political scene, I am sure something could be done to hasten that process."

[]

SECRET

BEST AVAILABLE COPY